

Dear Colleagues

As we work together to transform education in Rhode Island, one of our top priorities has been to develop user-friendly data systems. We want everyone in the state – educators, parents, students, and community members – to have ready access to clear, accurate, and timely information about our schools.

As many people have pointed out, we have lots of education data and information in Rhode Island, but we have not always put that information to best use. Teachers and school leaders need good, accurate data to drive performance and to help students achieve in school. Parents need clear and comprehensible reports to understand how their children are performing. All taxpayers and policymakers need solid data to drive systems reform and to hold us accountable for our work.

Information Works Live, our new state data report, represents our most ambitious effort ever to make our wealth of education data readily available to the public. Here you will find easy access to information about schools, districts, and the state as a whole. For its June 2010 launch, the site developers focused mainly on making the state's large amount of testing and demographic data available, in interactive charts and graphs. But as the site continues to grow – over the summer and into future years – we will add data and reports on school finances, discipline and safety, teacher quality, and other information on the learning conditions in our schools and in our state.

Thank you for your interest in public education in Rhode Island, where our goal is to prepare all students for success in college, careers, and life!

Best,

Deborah A. Gist